

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are present in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 7 are independent. Claim 8 has been canceled. Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8.

**Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102(e)**

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vaithyanathan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,857,179). Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, and 7 to incorporate the subject matter of allowed claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an **interview** in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

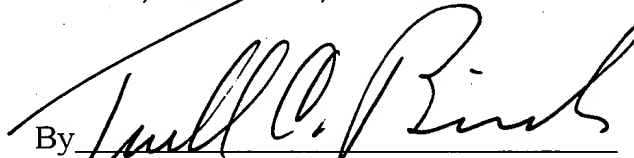
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant petitioned for an extension of three months to July 20, 2004 for the period in which to file a response to the Office Action dated January 20, 2004 in the

concurrently filed Notice of Appeal. The required fee has been paid in connection with the proper filing of this Notice of Appeal.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

*RWD*  
TCB/RWD/ph  
0397-0393P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 09/30/03)